Exploring the Internet
Neighborhood Networks Conference

What is the Internet?

The Internet is over 90,000 interconnected networks collectively owned by thousands of private, commercial and government organizations. As of January 1996 there were 9,472,000 hosts in 93 countries.

History

- 1969 - ARPANET begins with connections at UCLA, Stanford, University of Utah, and UCSB.
- 1989 - MCI established the first commercial electronic mail carrier.
- 1991 - Gopher released followed by the World Wide Web.
- 1993 - Mosaic introduced as the first web browser.
- 1995 - Traditional online systems (CompuServ, America Online, Prodigy) begin offering Internet access. A number of Internet related companies go public.

Getting Connected

Hardware requirements include a phone line, a computer with a 386 processor, 8MB of RAM and a modem (14.4 BPS or faster). Internet Service Providers (ISP's) provide standard Interent services to private and commercial clients.

Locally, the following ISP's offer Internet access:

- Q-Networks, Inc.: (816)795-1000
- Sound.net: (816)436-5206
- Unicom: 1-800-668-5801

Applications

E-Mail

Transmission of information from one party to another. One of the most popular applications of the Internet can assist in rapid information transmission among parties using listservs.

Sample: neighborhood_net@aspensys.com

File Transfer Protocol

Transfer of data from remote systems without special permissions. FTP allowed through Gopher and World Wide Web applications. Efficient in downloading software or sending large files over the Internet.

Telnet

Allows remote access to another system which provides to users the same functionality as being at the location of the system.

Gopher

Text based interface of the internet in which information files are organized hierarchically like an outline.
Sample:

- HUD User - gopher://huduser.org:73

World Wide Web

Hypertext system to provide links to resources that are similar or related to the original document. Requires a graphical browser such as Netscape, Mosaic or Internet Explorer. Other non-graphical browsers including Lynx can offer access to the web without the images. The web includes documents in all platforms including html, text, pdf and word processing files. It can also store multimedia objects such as sound, video and graphics.
Sample:

- The Daily Wav - http://www.dailywav.com
- Neighborhood Networks Publications - http://www.hud.gov/nnw/nnwpubs.html

Searching and Retrieving Information

Search Engines

FTP and Gopher directories can be searched using Archie, Veronica and Jughead. The World Wide Web contains a number of popular search engines.
More popular ones include:

- Yahoo - http://www.yahoo.com
- Infoseek - http://www.infoseek.com

Listservs

Announcements which specify new information on the Internet. Archives are sometimes stored on the Internet while most send weekly updates via email.

- ☐ The Scout Report - listserv@lists.internic.net
  The Scout Report is a weekly publication offering a selection of new and newly discovered Internet resources. To subscribe leave the subject line blank and in the body of the message type:

  ```
  subscribe scout-report 'Your Name'
  ```

- ☐ Net-Happenings - listserv@lists.internic.net
  Net-Happenings provides announcements of interests to the Internet community. To subscribe leave the subject line blank and in the body of the message type:

  ```
  subscribe net-happenings 'Your Name'
  ```

What's New

The following sites provide collect information on what is new on the web. These sites are found by submited by individuals or organizations while others are given special recognition by the webmaster of the particular site.

- ☐ What's New on Yahoo - http://www.yahoo.com/new
- ☐ Cool Site of the Day - http://cool.infi.net

Government Information

Many Federal, State and local agencies are providing access to information through the Internet. The public can gain access to documents that can assist in filling out tax returns in addition to finding the latest funding opportunities from the Federal Register.

- ☐ The Library of Congress - http://www.loc.gov
- ☐ THOMAS - http://thomas.loc.gov
- ☐ The Federal Register Online - http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html